

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUMMER 2014 FUNDING CYCLE

Decision Notice and Response to Public Comment

Prepared by
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
September 5, 2014

Proposal and Final Action

Members of the Future Fisheries Review Panel submitted funding recommendations for 10 of 13 proposed projects in the 2014 summer funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) for final approval. The Future Fisheries Review Panel is an independent board appointed by the governor (87-1-273, MCA). As a final action, the Commission adopted all of the funding recommendations, as submitted by the Future Fisheries Review Panel, at their public meeting held in Helena on August 26, 2014.

The FFIP was established in 1995 to establish and implement a statewide voluntary program that promotes fishery habitats and spawning areas for the rivers, streams, and lakes of Montana's fisheries in order to enhance future fisheries through natural reproduction (87-1-272, MCA).

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

MEPA requires Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to assess the potential consequences of the proposed action for the human and natural environment. Environmental Assessments (EA's) were prepared and released by FWP on July 16th or 25th, 2014 for seven individual proposed projects associated with the Summer 2014 FFIP funding cycle. The 32- to 30-day public comment period ended August 18th and 25th, respectively. The proposed projects included:

Bean Creek Channel Restoration
East Gallatin Restoration at Story Mill
Keep Cool Creek Fish Passage Improvement
Liverpool Creek Fish Passage/Entrainment/Flow
North Fork Blackfoot River Instream Flow Enhancement
Sauerkraut Creek Phase 2 Channel Restoration
Tenmile Creek Bank Stabilization and Fencing

The remaining three projects funded by Commission approval either fell under a categorical exclusion (defined under ARM), the federal National Environmental Policy Act, or had an EA developed as part of a larger project.

Summary of Public Comment

The following is a summary of comments received from seven drafted EA's, as well as associated responses from FWP:

No public comments were received.

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The public comment period closed on the above projects, with no comments received. Based on the EA's disclosure and analysis of potential impacts, the FWP concludes that the proposed action will not result in any significant impacts. For the seven projects listed above, FWP will adopt the draft EA as the final EA and proceed with the projects as planned. Copies of the final EA's are available upon request.

Thank you for your interest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle McGree", followed by a horizontal line.

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